

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, the Specification has been amended. Claims 1-39 are pending and under consideration.

1. Rejection of Claim 1 as Anticipated by Heyman.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Heyman (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,164).

Claim 1 recites "a compensating unit connected between the first and second support members or the supports of the resilient support members between each connecting portion and the mask, the compensating unit being formed of a material having a lower thermal expansion coefficient than that of the first and second resilient support members."

According to the Examiner, an intermediary member 48 of Heyman corresponds to the claimed first and second support members, a peripheral frame 28 of Heyman corresponds to the claimed first and second resilient support members, a compliant section 42 of Heyman corresponds to the claimed supports, and a short side 36 of the frame 28 and a rigid section 40 to connection portions. It is respectfully submitted that the features of Heyman do not correspond to the claimed features as set forth by the Examiner.

In the Heyman reference, the frame 28 includes two long sides 32 and 34, and two short sides 36 and 38. Each of the two long sides 32 and 34 of the frame 28 includes a rigid section 40 and a compliant section 42 and each of the two short sides 36 and 38 of the frame 28 has an L-shaped cross-section upper portion 44 and a flat bar-shaped lower portion 46. Thus, the rigid section 40, the compliant section 42, the upper portion 44, and the lower portion 46 are elements of the frame 28.

In contrast, in the invention of claim 1, the frame includes first and second support members, first and second resilient support members installed between the first and second support members, and a compensating unit. Each of the first and second resilient support members includes supports and a connecting portion. The supports are fixed to the first and

second support members and the connecting portion connects the supports.

Accordingly, the Heyman reference does not disclose the resilient support members of the present invention. Also, the Heyman reference does not disclose the compensating unit of the present invention. The compensating unit of the present invention is connected between the first and second support members or the supports of the resilient member, but in Heyman there are no supports and no compensating unit fixed to the supports.

2. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-15, 18-21, 23, 25, 27-35, and 39 as Obvious over Yamamoto in view of Heyman

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-15, 18-21, 23, 25, 27-35, and 39 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Yamamoto (JP 2000-003682) in view of Heyman.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites "a compensating unit connected between the first and second support members or the supports of the resilient support members between each connecting portion and the mask, the compensating unit being formed of a material having a lower thermal expansion coefficient than that of the first and second resilient support members." It is respectfully submitted that Yamamoto does not teach or suggest these features.

Furthermore, the Examiner relies upon a tension regulating bolt 18i of Heyman as corresponding to the claimed compensating unit. However, this element of Heyman is fastened by inside and outside nuts after a blackening process. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Independent claims 13 and 39 recite similar features.

3. Rejection of Claims 3, 16, 17, 24, and 36-38 as Obvious over Yamamoto in view of Heyman and Ichigaya.

In the Office Action at page 9, claims 3, 16, 17, 24, and 36-38 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Yamamoto in view of Heyman and Ichigaya (U.S. Patent No. 4,798,992). It is respectfully submitted that Ichigaya does not overcome the above deficiencies in Yamamoto and Heyman.

4. Rejection of Claims 12, 22, and 26 as Obvious over Yamamoto in view of Heyman and Kim.

In the Office Action at pages 9-10, claims 12, 22, and 26 were rejected as obvious under

35 USC § 103 over Yamamoto in view of Heyman and Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,496). It is respectfully submitted that Kim does not overcome the above deficiencies in Yamamoto and Heyman.

5. Objection to the Specification

It is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome by the present amendment to the Specification.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

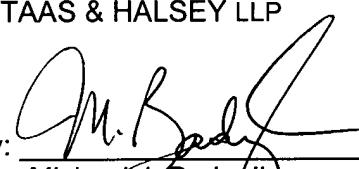
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please **AMEND** the paragraph beginning at page 15, paragraph [0037], as follows:

--Another embodiment of a compensating unit is shown in FIG. 11. As shown in FIG. 11, female screws 141 and 142 are formed in the ends of the respective first and second keepers [121b and 122b] 121a and 122a of the first and second support members 121 and 122, and both ends of a support bar 143 are screwed into the female screws 141 and 142. The support bar 143 includes a position setting member 144 to settle the position of the support bar 143.--